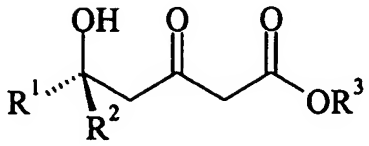
Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for preparing an optically active 5-hydroxy-3-ketoester of the formula A1 or A2

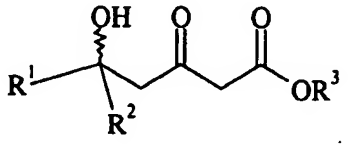


A1 or A2

or one of the tautomers thereof,

wherein R^1 and R^2 independently of each other represent hydrogen or a group which is selected from among C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10}-aryl and C_1-C_8-alkylene-C_6-C_{10}-aryl, optionally with one, two or three substituents, selected from among hydroxy, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkoxy and CF_3, where R^1 and R^2 do not simultaneously have the same meaning, and R^3 denotes a group selected from among C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_1-C_4-Haloalkyl, C_6-C_{10}-aryl-C_1-C_8-alkylene and trihydrocarbylsilyl, characterised in that a

racemic mixture of a 5-hydroxy-3-ketoester of formula A



A

wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as hereinbefore defined,

is resolved into the two enantiomeric 5-hydroxy-3-ketoester A1 and A2 by preparative high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) over a chiral carrier material, wherein the chiral carrier material is selected from the group consisting of tris(3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate)-amylose, tris[(S)-α-methylbenzylcarbamate]-amylose, tris(3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate)-cellulose, tris(4-methylbenzoate)-cellulose, cellulose triacetate, cellulosetribenzoate, tris(phenylcarbamate)-cellulose, tris(4-chlorophenylcarbamate)-cellulose, cellulosetricinnamate and cellulosetribenzoate.

Claim 2 (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the two separate enantiomeric 5-hydroxy-3-ketoesters **A1** and **A2** are each obtained in an enantiomer excess of at least 95%.

Claim 3 (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 independently of each other are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, phenyl, benzyl, phenylethyl and phenylpropyl, optionally with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, methoxy, ethoxy and CF_3.

Claim 4 (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and benzyl.

Claim 5 (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein R^1 denotes 2-phenylethyl and R^2 denote propyl or R^1 denotes propyl and R^2 denotes 2-phenylethyl.

Claim 6 (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein R^3 denotes tert.-butyl or ethyl.

Claim 7 (original): The process according to claim 5, wherein R^1 denotes 2-phenylethyl, R^2 denotes propyl and R^3 denotes ethyl or tert.-butyl.

Claims 8-11 (cancelled)

8 **Claim 12** (currently amended):The process according to claim ~~8~~ 1, wherein tris(3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate)-amylose or tris(3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate)-cellulose is used as the carrier material.

9 **~~13.~~** The process according to claim 1, wherein the preparative HPLC is used in the form of SMB (Simulated Moving Bed) chromatography.

Claims 14 and 15 (canceled)